

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 16122 150957Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----128078 151000Z /20
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7319
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, IN, PK, UN, US
SUBJECT: SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE (SANWFZ)
RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 271277 (NOTAL), USUN 4615, NEW DELHI 14570

1. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REACTION FROM MEA ON SANWFZ FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSIONX IN NEW YORK REPORTED IN USUN 4615. MINISTRY OFFICIALS MAY POSSIBLY RAISE THE SUBJECT WHEN WE TAKE COUNTRY DIRECTOR LANDE ON CALLS THERE LATER IN THE WEEK. WE'LL REPORT WHATEVER DEVELOPS.

2. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THE NEGATIVE GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PAK RESOLUTION HAS ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED HERE ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS: DURING DR. NYE'S VISIT, IN THE COURSE OF AMBASSADOR WELLS' CONSULTATIONS, AND, MOST RECENTLY, WHEN I DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA A MONTH AGO. WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT THE INDIANS WILL REACT ADVERSELY TO A CHANGE IN OUR LONG-STANDING AND OFTEN REITERATED POSITION ON NUCLEAR FREE ZONES, WHICH THEY WILL RECALL HAS INCLUDED THE PROVISION THAT ALL MAJOR REGIONAL COUNTRIES SHOULD AGREE TO SUCH PROPOSALS BEFORE WE CAN SUPPORT THEM. WE BELIEVE
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THAT THE INDIAN LEADERSHIP WILL SEE IT AS FURTHER UNWELCOME PUBLIC EVIDENCE THAT THE GOI'S UNILATERAL WORD ON ITS NUCLEAR INTENTIONS IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED. THE INDIANS ARE ALSO LIKELY TO BE DISTURBED BY OUR HAVING "FALLEN" FOR WHAT REMAINS IN THEIR VIEW A PAK STRATEGEM DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO EMBARRASS INDIA. THE JARRING NOTE THAT OUR CHANGE IN VOTE WILL THUS INTRODUCE INTO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL BE UNFORTUNATELY

TIMED, COMING AS IT WOULD WHEN WE ARE TRYING TO WIN THE GOI
OVER TO ACCEPTANCE OF MORE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR NON-
PROLIFERATION POLICIES AND (POSSIBLY) ON THE EVE OF A PRESI-
DENTIAL VISIT.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS JUST HOW ADVERSE INDIAN REAC-
TION WILL BE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE GOI WILL WANT TO PICK A
PUBLIC FIGHT WITH US ON THE ISSUE, THOUGH WITH PARLIAMENT IN
SESSION AND PRESS COVERAGE OF OUR CHANGED POSITION INEVITABLE
THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE OBLIGED TO ANSWER MPS' QUESTIONS ABOUT
IT. WE WOULD CERTAINLY URGE THAT IF A CHANGED VOTE IS DECIDED
UPON -- AND WE RECOGNIZE THE STRONG ARGUMENTS WHICH CAN BE
MOBILIZED IN FAVOR OF TAKING THAT STEP -- THE INDIANS BE
INFORMED IN ADVANCE AND GIVEN A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE BASES
ON WHICH THE DECISION WAS MADE. THIS WOULD BE A NATURAL
FOLLOW-UP TO THE COMMENDABLE MOVES USUN HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN
CONSULTING WITH THE INDIAN DELEGATION AND, LIKE THEM, MIGHT
HELP CONTAIN INDIAN REACTION.
GOHEEN

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